

REVISION NOTES ON PSYCHIATRY. By R. T. Koshy (pp. xi + 147; £1.45).
London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1977.

UNLIKE most psychiatric textbooks for nurses, usually written by psychiatrists, these revision notes are written by a nurse tutor trained in both general and psychiatric nursing. The approach is problem orientated and the emphasis is on topics of practical value to nurses involved in patient care. A useful series of short selections contains sound advice on how to handle difficult types of patient. A team approach to the management of psychiatric patients is advocated and the functions of the various therapeutic team members are clearly defined. Brief notes are provided about many, though not all, modern developments in patient care. The common psychiatric syndromes are described in note form. A reading list is provided at the end of each section as well as a number of revision questions. The text is clear and concise, though necessarily condensed. Inevitably a number of inaccuracies of fact appear. Nevertheless, this book can be recommended to nurses as a useful short revision text.

G.W.F.

CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE. By Richard Gorlin (pp. xii + 317; illustrated; £13.50). Philadelphia, London, Toronto: Saunders. 1976.

THIS monograph, which is one of a series on different topics in medicine, is written by one of the most respected and leading experts in the field of coronary disease. In the preface the author states: "It is the purpose of Coronary Artery Disease to marshal in one place the majority of the available information concerning the current practice of coronary heart disease," and he succeeds not only in doing this, but in presenting it in a concise and interesting fashion.

The early chapters cover such topics as methods of investigation, pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and the anatomy and physiology of the coronary circulation. Later chapters are devoted to current views on the medical and surgical treatment of obstructive coronary disease and the material is presented in a well-balanced form.

At £13.50 the book is expensive, but it can be strongly recommended to all physicians involved in treating patients with ischaemic heart disease.

J.G.M.

RABIES—THE FACTS. Edited by Colin Kaplin (pp. 116; plates 12; £0.75).
London: Corgi Books. Also in hardback at £1.95 (London: Oxford University Press). 1977.

THE claim on the dust cover of this book states that it is "a full presentation, in accessible and largely non-technical language, of the biological and medical details of rabies, together with a discussion of present policies, in the U.K. and elsewhere, for its prevention and elimination". Eight authors have written seven chapters on different aspects of the rabies problem in man and in animals which do much to substantiate the above claim. However, because of the multiple authorship, some unevenness in style is evident and there is overlap in information, particularly in chapters 4, 5 and 6, which deal with animal rabies and the red fox. The information in the book is up to date, e.g., a map of the spread of rabies in France on page 16 shows the position on 10th September 1976. Many intriguing facts and statistics are presented throughout the book, but unfortunately there are no references. The last chapter deals with rabies vaccines and antirabies serum, but the useful details of the various rabies immunisation schedules are not given. The book is printed clearly, the index is adequate, and the text, with rare exceptions, would be readily understood by non-medical readers. The plates are black-and-white photographs and include cases of human and animal rabies. Doctors and medical students will learn a great deal about rabies on reading this little book, and, considering the price of medical books today, both editions are cheap.

J.H.C.